



Northern Arizona Council of Governments News Release

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Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) Receives Governor's 2011 Excellence in Economic Development Award

Tucson, AZ – Northern Arizona Council of Governments in Yavapai County, Arizona received the 2011 Governor's Excellence in Economic Development Award for its Business Assistance Center (BAC).

On October 28, 2011 at the Governor's Statewide Development Conference, Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) was awarded a 2011 Governor's Excellence in Economic Development Award for their innovative Business Assistance Center (BAC)

NACOG accessed funding provided by the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy and partnered with Yavapai College and Systems Technology Staffing to support new, expanding and retention of small business in Yavapai County. The center was designed to create new home-based business, expand business opportunities with technical assistance, facilities and customized business training. In the first year, the BAC created over 250 jobs with 420 businesses and provided services to over 3,900 clients. The original BAC location in Prescott has now been expanded to the Verde Valley with the partnership of the City of Cottonwood. NACOG also received a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2011 Innovation Award for the BAC, which was presented in October. The NACOG Business Assistance Center has been noted as an Arizona Best Practice and the center is being replicated in the state.

NACOG's BACs provide complimentary services to individuals, entrepreneurs and small business, to owner/operators who need assistance with their business or marketing plans and business owners who want to keep their business sustainable. Both BAC centers offer free workshops, consulting and state-of-the-art equipment at no cost. "The BAC is successful because of the partnerships we have developed." *Teri Drew, Regional Director for NACOG.*